

CLAIMS

1. Method for compensating reactive power and/or harmonic currents in an alternating-current network by means of a frequency converter (1) feeding an alternating-current load (3), which frequency converter has a mains bridge (10) and at least one load bridge (11), said bridges being provided with controllable semiconductor switches, **characterized** in that, in the method:
 - the reactive power and/or harmonic currents in the alternating-current network are measured,
- 10 the load of the mains bridge of the frequency converter is measured, and
 - the reactive power and/or harmonic currents in the alternating-current network are compensated by means of the frequency converter when the mains bridge is running at less than full capacity or has no load.
- 15 2. Apparatus for compensating reactive power and/or harmonic currents in an alternating-current network, said apparatus comprising:
 - a frequency converter (1) feeding an alternating-current load (3) and comprising a mains bridge (10) and at least one load bridge (11), said bridges being provided with controllable semiconductor switches, and a control unit (2) for controlling the mains and load bridges,
- 20 **characterized** in that the apparatus further comprises:
 - a measuring unit (5) for the measurement of reactive power and/or harmonic currents in the alternating-current network, and
 - a measuring unit (4) used to measure the load of the mains bridge of the frequency converter, and that
- 25 the control unit (2) controls the mains bridge to compensate the reactive power and/or harmonic currents in the alternating-current network by means of the frequency converter when the mains bridge is running at less than full capacity or has no load.